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Mavs pummeled by fierce Blazer team

DALLAS (AP) — Jerome Kersey and Terry Porter took command after Buck Williams suffered an eye injury and the Portland Blazers rolled to a 106-92 victory over the Dallas Mavericks and a three-game sweep of their NBA first-round playoff series.

Williams played only in the first period and missed the rest of the game after he was hit in the eye by James Donaldson's elbow.

The Mavs rallied from a 17-point deficit in the second half to come within two points at 87-85 with 5:45 to play.

But Kersey, Porter, and Clyde Drexler beat back the rally. Kersey scored 29 points, Porter had 20 points and Drexler made 20.

Rolando Blackman led Dallas with 20 points and Herb Williams contributed 17 off the bench.

Dallas came from eight points down to tie the game at 40 midway through the second quarter but Port-

land went on an 18-3 run to lead 58-43 at halftime.

Portland's hustling defense shut down the Mavs, who only scored three points on their last 12 possessions of the half and the Trail Blazers forced them into four turnovers.

An alley oop-pass from Cliff Robinson to Clyde Drexler gave Portland a 10-point lead and they stretched it to 16 on a basket by Wayne Cooper as the sellout crowd of 17,007 began to boo.

Dallas hit only one of eight field goal shots and one of six free throws in the final 6:47. Roy Tarpley went the first half without a point, missing all eight shots he tried.

Portland had 15 baskets off lay-ups, dunks and tip-ins in the first half.

Williams was forced to the dressing room with 10.1 seconds left in the first period when he caught an elbow in the face from Dallas' James Donaldson.

Detroit definitely "Motor City" Pistons let air out of Pacer's tires with three-game sweep

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Isiah Thomas scored 23 points and Bill Laimbeer had 12 points and 19 rebounds Tuesday night, leading the Detroit Pistons over the Indiana Pacers 108-96 for a three-game sweep in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

The Pistons built a 15-point lead in the third quarter, then withstood an Indiana rally within five points midway through the final period. Detroit put the game away with

three baskets apiece by Laimbeer and Dennis Rodman during a 12-4 spurt in the closing minutes.

John Salley added 17 points for Detroit, including 16 in the first half, when the Pistons built a 54-45 lead.

Reggie Miller had 22 points and Detlef Schrempf added 20 for Indiana.

The defending champion Pistons will play the winner of the Boston-New York series in the conference semifinals.

Blackhawks not giving up easily

CHICAGO (AP) — The Stanley Cup show goes on and the weary Chicago Blackhawks are ready to play their roles.

Having survived a second straight seven-game series by eliminating the St. Louis Blues from the playoffs 8-2 Monday night, the Blackhawks open their semifinal Stanley Cup series at Edmonton on Wednesday night against a well-rested Oilers team.

Everything seems to favor the Oilers.

They will have home-ice advantage, they have won seven straight playoff games after being down to Winnipeg 3-1 in the opening series, and they have rested for more than a week since sweeping the Los Angeles Kings.

"The Oilers are on a roll," said Blackhawks coach Mike Keenan. "They are a commendable team. They have a lot of championship players. But we have been rehearsing for a year coming back from adverse conditions."

Keenan, a taskmaster not known to pass out praise often, said: "A lot of people gave us a lot of heart. We've been able to come through hard times. We're proud to be the only team to repeat in the final four."

Last year's champion Calgary Flames have been eliminated, as were the Montreal Canadiens. The other semi-finalist in 1988, the Philadelphia Flyers, didn't even make the playoffs.

While the Oilers have a number of players remaining from their past championship teams, they finished second in the Smythe Division while the Blackhawks finished first in the Norris. Edmonton gets home ice because the Oilers finished with 90 points, two more than the Blackhawks.

Spurs take bite out of Nuggets

DENVER (AP) — Terry Cummings scored 28 points, including 10 to thwart a fierce Denver rally in the third quarter, and the San Antonio Spurs raced to a 131-120 victory Tuesday night to sweep the first-round playoff series.

The Spurs, who advanced to meet the Portland Trail Blazers, outshot Denver 56 percent to 40 percent and held a 58-40 rebounding edge.

Spurs center David Robinson, the NBA's rookie of the year, and Willie Anderson added 26 points each. But it was Cummings' play in the third quarter that proved critical.

Down 14 points early in the quarter, the cold-shooting Nuggets climbed back with an 11-2 run to draw to 69-64. Cummings then hit five jumpers over a span of 3:11 to help extend the Spurs' lead to 13 points.

After the Nuggets cut the deficit to four points, San Antonio scored the next nine points — five by Anderson and four by Cummings — for an 87-74 advantage.

But the Nuggets wouldn't go quietly.

They drew within five points early in the fourth quarter after a pair of free throws by Todd Lichti and Alex English's baseline jumper. Staying within striking distance, they cut the Spurs' lead to 121-118 on Fat Lever's 3-pointer with 1:27 remaining.

But Cummings scored on a follow and Anderson added a three-point play to clinch the victory.

English, possibly playing his final game in a Denver uniform because of differences with Coach Doug Moe, led the Nuggets with 24 points, 18 in the second half. Lever had 20.

Wudel

(Continued from page 7)

to the floor.

Coach Larry Brown said the display blew his mind.

The demand for Spurs playoff tickets reached such a frenzy that a local judge had to rule on a case between two fans who shared season tickets and who both wanted the playoff tickets. The litigants were brothers.

So the NBA really is "fantastic," as are all the other sports leagues. Take the recent revivals of football's Green Bay Packers or baseball's Baltimore Orioles last season. Their lowly fans became crowds of raised hands as the teams rose above all expectations.

However, some teams are content to live in the cellars of their leagues. It's a common sight to see teams like the Seattle Mariners, Atlanta Falcons, and Sacramento Kings lingering in the troughs of their leagues.

The never-ending drought of

successful seasons dumbfounded their fans. No counting expansion teams here, they have an excuse. But they are also among the top of their leagues in attendance. That's faith.

Any loyal fan can't help but be jealous of Los Angeles Lakers or San Francisco 49er fans. Their consistent success and happiness can be almost sickening at times.

And as for the Dallas Cowboys, well, the ball is in your hands for this one. There is no room but for improvement here. Fans who remember the glory days of America's team should stop blaming the Cowboys' problems on Jimmy Johnson's haircut.

When you get right down to it, teams would be nothing without their fans, and fans would be nothing without their teams. It's not whether your favorite team wins or loses, but how they play the game. Even if they don't play it very well, your time and patience as a loyal fan will eventually pay off the night they win the long-awaited championship.

Then, it will be your turn to gloat.

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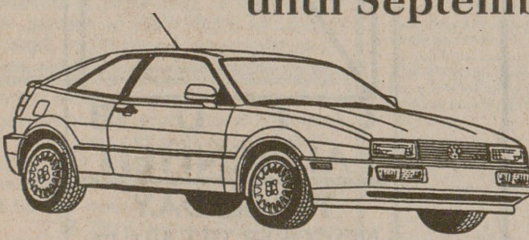
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